

Midmonth BookNotes

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Happy Holidays, Happy Reading

Cozy Corner

Alexander, Ellie. [Chilled to the Cone](#)

(St. Martin's \$8.99)

The deep freeze has thawed in Ashland, Oregon and Torte bakeshop is gearing up for a busy spring. When a surprise opportunity to launch a pop-up ice cream shop comes her way, pastry chef and amateur sleuth Juliet Capshaw jumps at the chance to showcase Torte's signature iced drinks and cold custards. But selling the desserts of her dreams comes at a price. One of the town's most colorful characters, a street performer known for wearing capes and a cone-shaped hat, turns up dead just as Torte 2.0 is set to open its doors. Can Jules get the scoop on what happened to "The Wizard" of Ashland before her new business venture reaches a chilling conclusion?

Carlisle, Kate. [Premeditated Mortar](#)

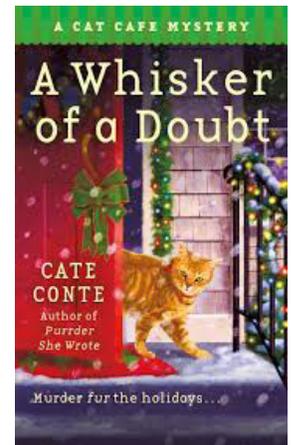
(Penguin \$7.99)

Shannon Hammer is raring to get started on her latest project: turning one wing of the Gables, the old state insane asylum purchased by her friend Jane Hennessey, into a boutique luxury hotel. But Shannon is shocked when a group of unruly protesters shows up at the groundbreaking ceremony and wreaks havoc. She's even more freaked-out when someone pushes her into a pit of bricks in a closed-off room of the asylum. Despite her close call, Shannon wants nothing more than to get back to work . . . until she finds a body not far from where she was pushed. Now Shannon is determined to get to the bottom of the goings-on at the Gables even if it kills her.

Conte, Cate. [A Whisker of a Doubt](#)

(St. Martin's \$7.99)

The holiday season on Daybreak Island is a mixed bag for Maddie James. On the one hand, her Christmas spirit is in the doghouse after a break-up. On the other, she's busy enough that she doesn't have to pretend to be merry. Business at her cat café is booming, and Maddie's care-taking of a feral cat colony in one of the area's wealthiest communities only helps her bottom line. But tensions between the homeowners and animal activists are escalating to catastrophic levels. . .and before long a body is found dead in a snowbank. To prove that her accused friend is innocent of the crime, Maddie will have to prowl the island for clues to the real killer before everyone on the island goes completely hiss-terical—and more than nine lives are lost.



Hawkins, Jennifer. [To Fetch a Felon](#)

(Berkley \$7.99)

Emma Reed leaves London and her life in high finance behind her and moves to an idyllic village in Cornwall, with its cobblestone streets and twisting byways. There Emma plans to open a village tea shop and bake the recipes handed down to her from her beloved grandmother, and of course there'll be plenty of space for her talking corgi, Oliver, to explore. Yes...talking. Emma has always been able to understand Oliver, even though no one else can. As soon as Emma arrives in the village she discovers that

the curmudgeonly owner of the building she wants to rent for her shop hates dogs and gets off on the wrong foot with Oliver. Although some might turn tail and run, Emma is determined to win her over. But when she delivers some of her homemade scones as a peace offering, she finds the woman dead. Together, Emma and Oliver will need to unleash their detective skills to catch a killer. *Kirkus* had this to say “A promising debut for dog lovers, who’ll delight in the clever talking corgi and his charming owner.”

Innes, Louise. [Death at a Country Mansion](#)
(Kensington \$8.99)

No one would ever accuse famous opera star Dame Serena Levanté of lacking a flare for the dramatic. Unfortunately, it’s curtains down on the dysfunctional diva when she’s found dead at the bottom of a staircase in her elegant home. Solving an opera singer’s murder may not be the typical hairdresser’s aria of expertise. But Dame Serena was the mother of Daisy Thorne’s best friend Floria, so Daisy must do her best to get to the roots of the case. When a priceless Modigliani painting in the house is reported missing, the mystery gets even more tangled. Even though the gruff but handsome Detective Inspector Paul McGuinness tells the stylist to stay out of his hair, Daisy is determined to make sure the killer faces a stern makeover - behind bars. A fun debut set in the charming village of Edgemead.

Sanders, Angela. [Bait and Witch](#)
(Kensington \$7.99)

Josie Way loved working among the Library of Congress’s leather-scented stacks; until she uncovered corruption and made herself a target. Now as Wilfred, Oregon’s new librarian, Josie can stay undercover until the case goes to court. But life in this little town isn’t as subdued as she expected. The library, housed in a Victorian mansion, is slated to be bulldozed, and Josie has just discovered a body in the woods. Almost as shocking, Josie learns that she’s descended from a long line of witches, and her powers have suddenly sprung to life. With help from a spoiled alley cat who just may be her familiar, Josie’s thumbing through a catalog of suspects, hoping she can conjure a way to save her library and her life. “Zippy and fun, with just enough ambiance to satisfy readers seeking spooks and humor,” was *Kirkus*’ conclusion to this terrific launch to a new series.

Wingate, Marty. [Murder is a Must](#)
(Berkley \$26)

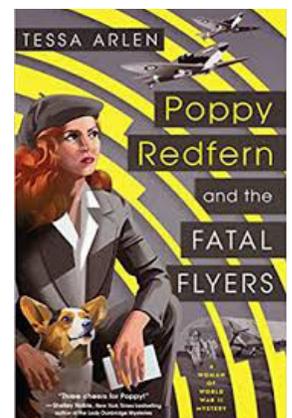
Busily preparing for an exhibit at Middlebank House featuring the letters and life of Lady Fowling, curator Hayley Burke hires her difficult former boss, Oona Atherton, to help with planning the exhibit. However, when Hayley discovers a one-page letter alluding to a priceless first edition of Dorothy L. Sayers’ *Murder Must Advertise* lost somewhere in the library, Oona becomes obsessed with finding the book and including it in the exhibit. But someone doesn’t want the book found as Hayley soon finds out when she stumbles across Oona’s body at the bottom of a staircase. A library in Bath dedicated to Golden Age mysteries, what more could a cozy mystery fan crave? Wingate launched her “First Edition Library Mystery” series last year with the exemplary [The Bodies in the Library](#) (Berkley \$7.99), which in part played homage to the grand dame of mystery fiction Agatha Christie. Now Wingate is back with another delightfully fun detective story that this time gives a literary nod to Dorothy L. Sayers.

Historical Fiction. Mysteries, Romance, and More

Arlen, Tessa. [Poppy Redfern and the Fatal Flyers](#)
(Berkley \$16)

It is the late autumn of 1942. Our indomitable heroine Poppy Redfern is thoroughly immersed in her new job as a scriptwriter at the London Crown Film Unit, which produces short films featuring British civilians who perform acts of valor and heroism in wartime. After weeks of typing copy and sharpening pencils, Poppy is thrilled to receive her first solo script project: a fifteen-minute film about the Air Transport Auxiliary, known as Attagirls, a group of female civilians who have been trained to pilot planes from factories to military airfields all over Britain.

Poppy could not be more excited to spend time with these amazing ladies, but she never expects to see one of the best pilots die in what is being labeled an



accident. When another Attagirl meets a similar fate, Poppy and her American fighter-pilot boyfriend, Griff, believe foul play may be at work. They soon realize that a murderer with a desire for revenge is dead set on grounding the Attagirls for good. Arlen launched this superbly entertaining series last year with [Poppy Redfern and the Midnight Murders](#) (Berkley \$16), making it one that fans of Jacqueline Winspear's Maisie Dobbs's books and Susan Elia MacNeal's Maggie Hope mysteries will definitely want to add to their reading lists.

Ashford, Jane. [Earl's Well that Ends Well](#)
(Sourcebooks \$7.99)

Arthur Shelton, Earl of Macklin, has helped four young noblemen recover from grief and find love, but he's learned to live his own life as a widower. Yet when he returns home after traveling, his estate feels too empty, and he quickly heads to London. There, he encounters Teresa Alvarez de Granada, a charming Spanish noblewoman and is immediately entranced.

There is no room for earls in the quiet, safe life Teresa has finally found for herself. The earl might be charming and handsome, but she knows firsthand how dangerous attraction can be. But the more determined Teresa is to discourage Arthur, the more entangled they get, and it's only a matter of time before her respect for him starts to feel a lot like love. Ashford wraps up her "Way to a Lord's Heart" series on a high note with this terrific tale that not only features a refreshingly older heroine, but also a generous dash of danger.

Chase, Loretta. [Ten Things I Hate about the Duke](#)
(Avon \$7.99)

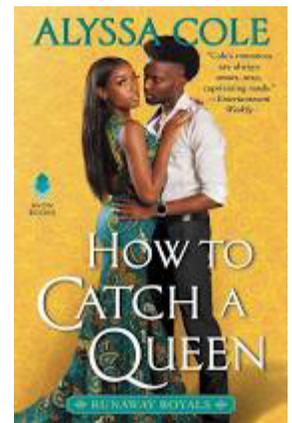
Cassandra Pomfret holds strong opinions she isn't shy about voicing. But her extremely plain speaking has caused an uproar, and her exasperated father, hoping a husband will rein her in, has ruled that her beloved sister can't marry until Cassandra does. Now, thanks to a certain wild-living nobleman, the last shreds of Cassandra's reputation are about to disintegrate, taking her sister's future and her family's good name along with them. The Duke of Ashmont's looks make women swoon. His character flaws are beyond counting. He's lost a perfectly good bride through his own carelessness. He nearly killed one of his two best friends. Still, troublemaker that he is, he knows that damaging a lady's good name isn't sporting. The only

way to right the wrong is to marry her, and hope she doesn't smother him in his sleep on their wedding night. RITA award-winning Chase continues her Difficult Duke series with a clever spin on Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*.

Cole, Alyssa. [How to Catch a Queen](#)
(Avon \$7.99)

When Shanti Mohapi weds the king of Njaza, her dream of becoming a queen finally comes true. But it's nothing like she imagined. Shanti and her husband may share an immediate and powerful attraction, but her subjects see her as an outsider, and everything she was taught

about being the perfect wife goes disastrously wrong. A king must rule with an iron fist, and newly crowned King Sanyu was born perfectly fitted for the gauntlet, even if he wishes he weren't. He agrees to take a wife as is required of him, though he doesn't expect to actually fall in love. Even more vexing? His beguiling new queen



seems to have the answers to his country's problems; except no one will listen to her. By day, they lead separate lives. By night, she wears the crown, and he bows to her demands in matters of politics and passion. When turmoil erupts in their kingdom and their marriage, Shanti goes on the run, and Sanyu must learn whether he has what it takes both to lead his people and to catch his queen. "This striking feminist saga raises the bar for contemporary romance." (PW)

Cousens, Sophie. [This Time Next Year](#)
(Putnam \$16)

Minnie Cooper knows two things with certainty: that her New Year's birthday is unlucky, and that it's all because of Quinn Hamilton, a man she's never met. Their mothers gave birth to them at the same hospital just after midnight on New Year's Day, but Quinn was given the cash prize for being the first baby born in London in 1990--and the name Minnie was meant to have, as well. With luck like that, it's no wonder each of her birthdays has been more of a disaster than the one before. When Minnie unexpectedly runs into Quinn at a New Year's party on their mutual

thirtieth birthday, she sees only more evidence that fortune has continued to favor him. The gorgeous, charming business owner truly seems to have it all--while Minnie's on the brink of losing her pie-making company and her home. But if Quinn and Minnie are from different worlds, why do they keep bumping into each other? And why is it that each fraught encounter leaves them both wanting more?

Davidson, MaryJanice. [Truth Lies and Second Dates](#) (St. Martin's \$16.99)

Captain Ava Capp has been flying from her past for a decade. She'd much rather leave it, and her home state, behind forever. But when she finds herself back in Minnesota, against her better judgment, everything goes sideways in a way she never expected it to. M.E. Dr. Tom Baker has never forgotten Ava and the cold case she ran away from. When she shows up unexpectedly in town, in spite of himself, sparks fly. Which is terrible because he can't stop his growing attraction to her. Can these two Type-A's let their guards down and work together to put Ava's tragic past behind her for good? And keep their hands off each other at the same time? *PW* summed up this standalone contemporary romance from Davidson with "the mystery will keep readers turning the pages, and Ava's raunchy internal monologue creates plenty of laugh-out-loud moments." Sounds perfect for Stephanie Plum fans.

Davis, Fiona. [The Chelsea Girls](#) (Dutton \$17)

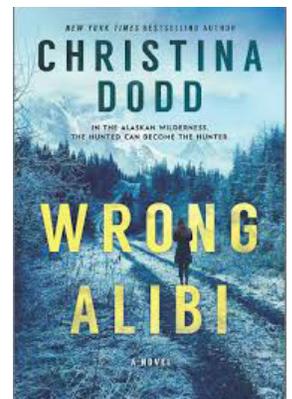
From the dramatic redbrick facade to the sweeping staircase dripping with art, the Chelsea Hotel has long been New York City's creative oasis for the many artists, writers, musicians, actors, filmmakers, and poets who have called it home; a scene playwright Hazel Riley and actress Maxine Mead are determined to use to their advantage. Yet they soon discover that the greatest obstacle to putting up a show on Broadway has nothing to do with their art, and everything to do with politics. A Red Scare is sweeping across America, and Senator Joseph McCarthy has started a witch hunt for communists, with those in the entertainment industry in the crosshairs. As the pressure builds to name names, it is more than Hazel and Maxine's Broadway dreams that may suffer as they grapple with the terrible consequences, but also their livelihood, their friendship, and even their freedom.

DeWylde, Saranna. [Fairy Godmothers, Inc.](#) (Kensington \$15.95)

If love is the source of all the magic in the universe, and the town of Ever After, Missouri, is the epicenter of enchantment, then the locals are in dire need of a reboot. At least according to resident fairy godmothers Petunia, Jonquil, and Bluebonnet. Their solution? Blow a bit of fairy dust in the direction of those in need of romance...what could possibly go wrong? Lucky Fujiki's first name is a cosmic joke. Her luck is so bad, even the number seven steers clear of her. But when her adorable godmothers ask for a favor, Lucky can't say no--even if she can already feel the bad juju waiting to strike. And her mission is even worse than she imagined: to promote Ever After as a wedding destination by faking a marriage to her first love and long-time ex, Ransom Payne--he of the Embarrassing Incident that neither of them will ever live down. This is the first in the author's charming and sexy new Fairy Godmothers, Inc. series, of which *Kirkus* concluded "readers will fall head over heels for both the quirky town and the achingly sweet second-chance romance."

Dodd, Christina. [Wrong Alibi](#) (HQN \$28.99)

After her former employer Donald White frames her for the horrific crimes he committed, Evie Jones is forced to abandon the new life she has slowly been building for herself as well as cut everyone she ever loved out of her life. Evie reinvents herself as Petie and spends the next ten years living under the radar as the manager of the Midnight Sun Fishing Camp, an exclusive resort tucked away in a beautiful, remote corner of Alaska. However, when Evie learns that Donald is back in Alaska and targeting a new victim, she decides it is time to settle an old score. Dodd keeps readers' nerves jangling while she slowly and skillfully ratchets up the suspense to the breaking point in her latest addictively readable thriller. Dodd will be appearing virtually at the Poisoned Pen with her literary cohort Jayne Ann Krantz on January 16th. The Poisoned Pen will have a limited number of



signed hardcovers from Dodd, so reserve your copy now while supplies last!

Graves, Stephanie. [Olive Bright, Pigeoneer](#)
(Kensington \$26)

Adrift since her best friend, George, joined the Royal Air Force, twenty-two-year-old Olive Bright fills her days by helping at her father's veterinary practice and tending to her beloved racing pigeons. Desperate to do her bit for the war effort, Olive hopes that the National Pigeon Service will enlist Bright Lofts' expertise, and use their highly trained birds to deliver critical, coded messages for His Majesty's Forces. However, the strangers who arrive in Pibley are not from the NPS. Instead, Jameson Aldridge and his associate are tied to a covert British intelligence organization known as Baker Street. If Olive wants her pigeons to help the war effort, she must do so in complete secrecy. Tired of living vicariously through the characters of her beloved Agatha Christie novels, Olive readily agrees. But in the midst of her subterfuge, the village of Pibley is dealing with another mystery. Local busybody Miss Husselbee is found dead outside Olive's pigeon loft. Is the murder tied to Olive's new assignment? Or did Miss Husselbee finally succeed in ferreting out a secret shameful enough to kill for? With the gruff, handsome Jameson as an unlikely ally, Olive intends to find out--but homing in on a murderer can be a deadly business. "A delightful classic village mystery studded with little-known World War II facts: a promising series debut." (*Kirkus*)

Klassen, Julie. [A Castaway in Cornwall](#)
(Bethany House \$19.99)

It's 1813, and Laura Callaway daily walks the wind-swept Cornwall coast searching for shipwreck survivors in need of assistance. When a man, Alexander Carnell, with curious wounds and an odd accent is washed ashore, Laura helps nurse him back to health all while the mystery surrounding him grows. However, can the budding attraction between Laura and Alexander survive with danger now surrounding them from every side?

Krentz, Jayne Ann. [All the Colors of Night](#)
(Berkley \$27)

After her professional reputation as an antiques expert is trashed, Sierra Raines ends up working as an "acquisition and transportation specialist" for a company dedicated to supplying paranormal artifacts to wealthy collectors. North Chastain uses his own unique talents tracking down psychic criminals, but when an artifact that may be connected to a mysterious government program known as the Bluestone Project, puts North's father in a coma, North knows he is going to need Sierra's help in tracking down the artifact. Krentz is at the top of her literary game with this page-turner that seamlessly blends suspense and romance while at the same time also delivering a maximum dose of the author's deliciously dry sense of wit. Krentz will be appearing virtually at the Poisoned Pen with her long-time friend and literary *bon ami* Christina Dodd on January 16th.



Little, Judith. [The Chanel Sisters](#)
(Graydon \$17.99)

Antoinette and Gabrielle "Coco" Chanel know they're destined for something better. Abandoned by their family at a young age, they've grown up under the guidance of nuns preparing them for simple lives as the wives of tradesmen or shopkeepers. At night, their secret stash of romantic novels and magazine cutouts beneath the floorboards are all they have to keep their dreams of the future alive. The walls of the convent can't shield them forever, and when they're finally of age, the Chanel sisters set out together with a fierce determination to prove themselves worthy to a society that has never accepted them. Their journey propels them out of poverty and to the stylish cafés of Moulins, the dazzling performance halls of Vichy, and to a small hat shop on the rue Cambon in Paris, where a boutique business takes hold and expands to the glamorous French resort towns. But the sisters' lives are again thrown into turmoil when World War I breaks out, forcing them to make irrevocable choices, and they'll have to gather the courage to fashion their own places in the world, even if apart

from each other. *PW* said “Little’s story of two indomitable women offers an eye-opening account of the unsung Antoinette and her pivotal role in her famed sister’s success. Fashion aficionados in particular will appreciate this take on the life of a legend.”

Macallister, Greer. [The Arctic Fury](#)
(Sourcebooks \$16.99)

Virginia Reeve is summoned by an eccentric Brit with a compelling offer. Lady Jane Franklin wants her to lead a dozen women into the Arctic in search of the ships of her husband’s lost expedition, and she’s willing to pay handsomely. All four search attempts Lady Franklin has sponsored have failed. She has decided only a radical new approach can succeed: let women make the decisions. Lady Franklin will disavow all knowledge of the expedition if it fails, but if it succeeds, she promises great rewards. A year later in 1856, Virginia stands trial for murder. Set against the unforgiving backdrop of one of the world’s most inhospitable locations, MacAllister uses the true story of Lady Jane Franklin’s tireless attempts to find her husband’s lost expedition as a jumping-off point to spin a tale of bravery, intrigue, perseverance and hope.

Ryan, Reese. [Second Chance on Cypress Lane](#)
(Forever \$7.99)

Rising-star reporter Dakota Jones is usually the one breaking the news---until an inadvertent scandal wrecks her career. The only place she can go to regroup is Holly Grove Island. But her small South Carolina hometown comes with a major catch: Dexter Roberts, the first man to break Dakota’s heart, just happens to be her new boss. Working alongside Dexter, who is more attractive than he has a right to be, shows Dakota what might have been . . . but she isn’t giving him another chance to break her heart.

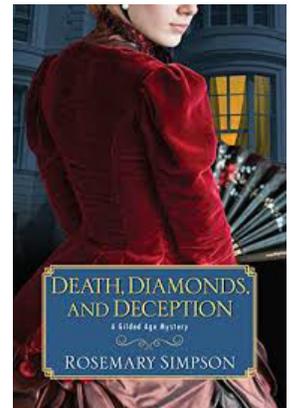
Shelton, Paige. [Cold Wind](#)
(St. Martin’s \$26.99)

Beth Rivers is still in Alaska. The unidentified man who kidnapped her in her home of St. Louis hasn’t been found yet, so she’s not ready to go back. But as October comes to a close, Benedict is feeling more and more like her new home. Beth has been working on herself: She’s managed to get back to writing,

and she’s enjoying these beautiful months between summer and winter in Alaska. Then, everything in Benedict changes after a mudslide exposes a world that had been hidden for years. Two mud-covered, silent girls appear, and a secret trapper’s house is found in the woods. The biggest surprise, though, is a dead and frozen woman’s body in the trapper’s shed. No one knows who she is, but the man who runs the mercantile, Randy, seems to be in the middle of all the mysteries. Unable to escape her journalistic roots, Beth is determined to answer the questions that keep arising: Are the mysterious girls and the frozen body connected? Can Randy possibly be involved? And—most importantly—can she solve this mystery before the cold wind sweeping over the town and the townspeople descends for good? The latest intriguing tale from Shelton has been racking up critical raves including one from *Kirkus*, which said “A gritty heroine fights for truth and justice in a world filled with darkness and flashes of hope and beauty.”

Simpson, Rosemary. [Death, Diamonds, and Deception](#) (Kensington \$26)

Lady Rotherton has arrived from London in the fall of 1889 intent on chaperoning her niece Prudence MacKenzie through a New York social season to find a suitable husband. It’s certainly not her niece’s devilishly handsome partner in Hunter and MacKenzie Investigative Law, ex-Pinkerton agent Geoffrey Hunter. Aunt Gillian’s eye for eligible suitors is surpassed only by her ability to discern genuine gems from nearly flawless fakes. At the Assembly Ball at Delmonico’s, she effortlessly determines that the stones in the spectacular diamond waterfall necklace adorning the neck of the wife of banker William DeVries are fake. Insisting on absolute discretion to avoid scandal, the banker employs Prudence and Geoffrey to recover the stolen diamonds pried out of their settings--priceless stones acquired by Tiffany, originally purchased for Marie Antoinette. Their search for a possible fence rapidly leads to a dead end: a jeweler brutally killed in his shop during an apparent theft. The latest in Simpson’s “Gilded Age” series is another compelling, superbly crafted read,



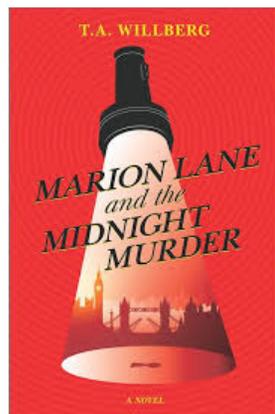
rich in period details and fascinating characters. (I certainly hope this isn't the last we see of the delightfully acerbic Lady Rotherton).

Tyce, Harriet. [The Lies You Told](#)
(Grand Central \$28)

After her marriage crumbles, Sadie Roper has no place to go but back to London, where her estranged mother has left Sadie the family home, but with a few strings attached. If Sadie is to have any hope of inheriting the house and a small chunk of change, she must enroll her young daughter Robin in Asham Girls School, the same exclusive academy that both Sadie and her mother attended as girls. From the beginning, the school is not very welcoming to newcomers, her daughter hasn't made any friends yet and the other mothers are as fiercely competitive as their children. Sadie immediately finds herself on the outside as she navigates the fraught politics of the school gate all while at the same time attempting to restart her career as a barrister by working on a scandalous, high-profile case. Tyce throws some nice twists into the *Mean Girl* on steroids plot of her second suspense novel, which is tailor-made for readers who love psychological suspense with a British flavor.

Willberg, T.A. [Marion Lane and the Midnight Murder](#)
(Park Row \$27.99)

Late one night in April 1958, a filing assistant at Miss Brickett's receives a letter of warning, detailing a name, a time, and a place. She goes to investigate but finds the room empty. At the stroke of midnight, she is murdered by a killer she can't see—her death the only sign she wasn't alone. It becomes chillingly clear that the person responsible must also work for Miss Brickett's, making everyone a suspect. Marion Lane, a first-year Inquirer-in-training, finds herself drawn ever deeper into the investigation. When her friend and colleague is framed for the crime, to clear his name she must sort through the hidden alliances at Miss Brickett's and secrets dating back to WWII. Masterful, clever and deliciously suspenseful, *Marion Lane and the Midnight*



Murder is a fresh take on the Agatha Christie-style locked-room murder mystery, with an exciting new heroine detective.

Williams, Denise. [How to Fail at Flirting](#)
(Berkley \$16)

When her flailing department lands on the university's chopping block, Professor Naya Turner's friends convince her to shed her frumpy cardigan for an evening on the town. For one night her focus will stray from her demanding job and she'll tackle a new kind of to-do list. When she meets a charming stranger in town on business, he presents the perfect opportunity to check off the items on her list. Let the guy buy her a drink. Check. Try something new. Check. A no-strings-attached hookup. Check; almost. Jake makes her laugh and challenges Naya to rebuild her confidence, which was left toppled by her abusive ex-boyfriend. Soon she's flirting with the chance at a more serious romantic relationship, except nothing can be that easy. The complicated strings around her dating Jake might destroy her career. Now Naya has two options. She can protect her professional reputation and return to her old life or she can flirt with the unknown and stay with the person who makes her feel like she's finally living again. *PW* neatly summed this up saying "Jam-packed with laugh-out-loud banter and heart-fluttering romance, this is a knockout."

Teen

Martineau, Maxym M. [The Frozen Prince](#)
(Sourcebooks \$10.99)

Noc, leader of the assassins of Cruor, may have broken the curse that's kept him trapped for so many years, but the dark magic won't be denied. If he doesn't kill Leena—the girl he can't live without—then his own life will be given as payment. To make matters worse, the truth of his past has fallen into the hands of his enemies, threatening everyone he's ever loved.

And their time is running out. Leena has finally come into her own as a Charmer and would do anything to help Noc survive. When she learns of a magical creature that may be able to save him, she gathers her courage and sets out for the frozen north. But what starts as a hunt for answers quickly turns deadly, and soon Leena, Noc, and their trusted band of

assassins find themselves face-to-face with an enemy more terrible, and powerful, than they could have ever imagined. This is the second compelling addition to Martinequ's "The Beast Charmer" series, which began with *Kingdom of Exiles*.

Welch, Jenna Evans. [Love & Olives](#)
(Simon & Schuster \$18.99)

Liv Varanakis doesn't have a lot of fond memories of her father, which makes sense; he fled to Greece when she was only eight. What Liv does remember, though, is their shared love for Greek myths and the lost city of Atlantis. So, when Liv suddenly receives a postcard from her father explaining that National Geographic is funding a documentary about his theories on Atlantis and asking if will she fly out to Greece and help. Of course, Liv jumps at the opportunity. But when she arrives to gorgeous Santorini, things are a little "awkward." There are so many questions, so many emotions that flood to the surface after seeing her father for the first time in years. And yet Liv doesn't want their past to get in the way of a possible reconciliation. She also definitely doesn't want Theo - her father's charismatic so-called "protégé" - to witness her struggle. And that means diving into all that Santorini has to offer: the beautiful sunsets, the turquoise water, the hidden caves, and the delicious cuisine. Welch puts her own clever spin on *Mamma Mia* in her latest evocative YA romance.

Nonfiction

Croce, Melissa. [Single and Forced to Mingle](#)
(Atria \$16.99)

So, you're single. Whether existing sans partner is a new state of being or you've been on this solo journey for a while, the fact of the matter is this: being single is *actually awesome*. You can do whatever you want, travel wherever you want, and be your truest, most free self. But there are a lot of people out there - your mom, your married best friend, the wedding industry, *society* - who see things differently. To them, singledom is something to avoid at all cost, no matter how many times you tell them you love your life the way it is. The limit does not exist when it comes to telling Aunt Carol you still don't want to be set up with her neighbor's ex-stepson. Now, Melissa Croce gives you the tips, tricks, and sage advice you

need to graciously endure all of the cringe-worthy scenarios your single self may dread, from awkward small talk with an ex to navigating well-meaning but insensitive relatives. And it helps you truly flourish in your singledom, offering activities like quizzes aimed at helping you find a new hobby and tarot spreads for that cozy Saturday night in. Part real-world guide, part commiseration, and part celebration, *Single and Forced to Mingle* will steer you through the ups and downs of being single, reminding you just how good it feels to be free.

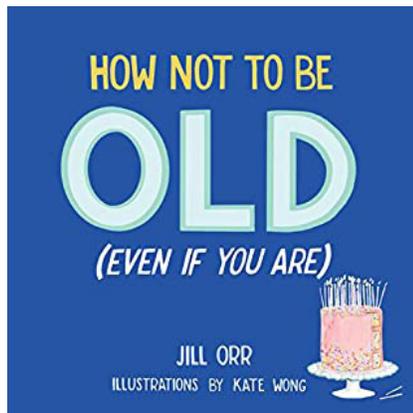
May, Katherine. [Wintering](#)
(Riverhead \$24)

Sometimes you slip through the cracks: unforeseen circumstances like an abrupt illness, the death of a loved one, a break up, or a job loss can derail a life. These periods of dislocation can be lonely and unexpected. For May, her husband fell ill, her son stopped attending school, and her own medical issues led her to leave a demanding job. *Wintering* explores how she not only endured this painful time, but embraced the singular opportunities it offered. A moving personal narrative shot through with lessons from literature, mythology, and the natural world, May's story offers instruction on the transformative power of rest and retreat. Illumination emerges from many sources: solstice celebrations and dormice hibernation, C.S. Lewis and Sylvia Plath, swimming in icy waters and sailing arctic seas. Ultimately *Wintering* invites us to change how we relate to our own fallow times. May models an active acceptance of sadness and finds nourishment in deep retreat, joy in the hushed beauty of winter, and encouragement in understanding life as cyclical, not linear. *Kirkus* summed up this timely guide by saying "Readers enduring forced hibernation during the pandemic may find wise counsel from May: When "feeling the drag of winter, I began to treat myself like a favored child: with kindness and love," eating and sleeping enough, and spending time "doing things that soothed me." A serene evocation of a dark season."



Orr, Jill. [How Not To Be Old](#)
(Prospect Park \$14.95)

Old suggests you have life experience, but OLD means you won't shut up about it. Old brings with it a more relaxed pace of life, while OLD is synonymous with slow driving (and even slower digestion). Old comes with a quiet confidence envied by youth, but OLD comes with bitterness and a rigidity that youth cannot rightfully stand. While growing old is a privilege, becoming OLD is optional. If you don't mind being "Okay, Karen-ed" by Millennials and Gen Zs, that's totally your choice. But if you want to update some of your long-held beliefs (and possibly your even-longer-held hairstyle) to become more relevant, *How Not to Be Old* will clue you in on how a slight adjustment in behavior and thinking will help you more fully connect with today's world... and the people who will be in charge of your nursing home one day. With a wry tone reminiscent of Erma Bombeck (for those of us old enough to remember her), Orr, the author of the "delightfully comic" and "highly amusing" Riley Ellison mystery series delivers a humorous how to guide on how we can all age gracefully. If you get a chuckle or two out of those Progressive Insurance commercials where the life coach is teaching people how not to be their parents, this is the book for you.



Sullivan, James. [Unsinkable](#)
(Scribner \$30)

More than the story of a single, savage engagement, *Unsinkable* traces the individual journeys of five men on one ship from Casablanca in North Africa, to Sicily and Salerno in Italy and then on to *Plunkett's* defining moment at Anzio, where a dozen-odd German bombers bore down on the ship in an assault so savage, so prolonged, and so deadly that one Navy commander was hard-pressed to think of another destroyer that had endured what *Plunkett* had. After a three-month overhaul and with a reputation rising as the "fighting-est" ship in the Navy, *Plunkett* (DD-431) plunged back

into the war at Omaha Beach on D-Day, and once again into battle during the invasion of Southern France, perhaps the only Navy ship to participate in every Allied invasion in the European theatre. Featuring five incredibly brave men - the indomitable skipper, who will receive the Navy Cross; the gunnery officer, who bucks the captain every step of the way to Anzio; a first lieutenant, who's desperate to get off the ship and into the Pacific; a seventeen-year-old water tender, who's trying to hold onto his hometown girl against all odds, and another water tender, who mans a 20mm gun when under aerial assault, the dramatic story of each plays out on the decks of the *Plunkett* as the ship's story escalates on the stage of the Mediterranean.

Swafford, Jan. [Mozart](#)
(HarperCollins \$45)

Mozart is often ranked as the greatest of all classical composers. Now Swafford, who has already written biographies of Beethoven and Brahms, tackles this musical genius giving readers a fascinating war-and-all portrait of the man. Swafford delves into both Mozart's life and his relationships with family members, patrons, and musical rivals as well as offering a deft assessment of Mozart's musical accomplishments, with a special emphasis on his operas. As *Booklist* put it in their review, "If tackling an 832-page biography of *anybody* seems daunting for the general reader, Swafford makes it seem almost effortless with Mozart."

Thompson, Wright. [Pappyland](#)
(Penguin \$27)

As a journalist said of Pappy Van Winkle, "You could call it bourbon, or you could call it a \$5,000 bottle of liquified, barrel-aged unobtainium." Julian Van Winkle, the third-generation head of his family's business, is now thought of as something like the Buddha of Bourbon - Booze Yoda, as Wright Thompson calls him. He is swarmed wherever he goes, and people stand in long lines to get him to sign their bottles of Pappy Van Winkle Family Reserve, the whiskey he created to honor his grandfather, the founder of the family concern. Thompson, an ESPN sportswriter, takes readers on a fascinating journey into the arcana of American whiskey, where a bottle of the 23-year-old Pappy starts at \$3000 on the internet. As Julian is the first to say, things have gone completely nuts.